

Message Text

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43/44

ACTION EB-07

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INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 /118 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2068

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS BRASILIA 9134

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG BR

SUBJECT: PREPCON II--BRAZILIAN PRESS PLAY

1. SUMMARY: EXTENSIVE BRAZILIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PREPCON II HIGHLIGHTED THREE MAIN THEMES: (1) DOMINANT AURA OF OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE IN POSITIVE RESULTS OF MEETING DUE PRIMARILY TO US AND FRENCH EFFORTS; (2) PROBLEMS OF BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE OVER REPRESENTATION ISSUE AND QUESTION OF COMMISSIONS' SCOPE; AND (3) GOB POSITION REMAINED FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC, AS AT PREPCON I. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO AND DURING FIRST DAYS OF PREPCON II, PRESS COVERAGE DOMINATED BY OPTIMISTIC SENTIMENTS. JORNAL DO BRASIL (OCT. 11) REFERRED TO "BETTER AUSPICES" UNDER WHICH MEETING WOULD CONVENE. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (OCT. 12)
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STATED "POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS APPEAR GREATER BECAUSE

DCS NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT A BROADENING OF THE AGENDA". ALSO NOTED RECENT "EVOLUTION" OF US POSITION WHICH "PERMITTED THE ATTAINMENT OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF DIVERGENCE", THUS FACILITATING RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN DECEMBER. SAME ARTICLE REFERRED TO AMB. RUSH'S ARTICLE IN "LE MONDE" ACKNOWLEDGING "CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE" PLAYED BY FRANCE AND CITING US INITIATIVE IN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR FOUR COMMISSIONS. JORNAL DO BRASIL (OCT.14) QUOTED FRENCH REP GUIRINGAUND'S OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON RECONVENING OF PREPCON WAS "DUE PRINCIPALLY TO 180 DEGREE TURN IN US POSITION." BUSINESS ORIENTED GAZETA MERCANTIL (OCT. 14) QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM UNDER SECY ROBINSON'S OPENING REMARKS, EMPHASIZING ZWE ACCEPT THE REALITY OF ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT HINDERS THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN REDUCE OUR OWN."

3. BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL PAPERS INITIALLY REFERRED TO BRITISH STAND ON INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATION AT DECEMBER CONFERENCE AS MAIN DANGER TO SUCCESS OF PREPCON II. O ESTADO (OCT. 12) STATED ALL PREPCON II PARTICIPANTS BELIEVED, "IN A GENERAL FASHION", THAT BRITISH POSITION "WOULD ENDANGER EQUILIBRIUM ATTAINED BY FIXING NUMBER (OF PARTICIPANTS) AT 27 COUNTRIES." THIS WAS LATER OVERSHADOWED AS DIFFERENCES AROSE OVER "GENERAL ORIENTATION" OF COMMISSIONS' WORK. ARTICLE IN O ESTADO (OCT. 15) TITLED "GOOD WILL DOES NOT HIDE DIFFERENCES" DESCRIBED DIFFICULTY AS "CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING HOW DIFFICULT WORK OF DECEMBER CONFERENCE WILL BE."

4. RE GOB POSITION. JORNAL DO BRASIL (OCT. 13) QUOTED DELEGATION HEAD AMB. CABRAL DE MELLO AS SAYING BRAZIL WOULD MAINTAIN SAME "OPEN AND FLEXIBLE " POSITION AS AT PREPCON I. CABRAL, HOWEVER, ALSO FELT PREPCON II WAS "BOUND TO SUCCEED" BECAUSE "90 PERCENT OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS." ACCORDING TO CABRAL, BRAZIL WOULD STILL MAINTAIN ITS UNITY WITH THE SEVEN DESPITE RECENT OPEC PRICE RISE BECAUSE COOPERATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES ON THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL WOULD LEAD TO COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM MATTERS. UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCORDING TO LOCAL JORNAL DE BRASILIA(OCT. 12), BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WOULD ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO "SOUND OUT" POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN PETROLEUM FIRMS RE EXPLORATION IN BRAZIL IN WAKE OF RECENT GOB DECISION TO GRANT RISK CONTRACTS. JOHNSON

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